

# FAST FACTS

*A message for health care providers*

## Tdap for Pregnant Women

***Pregnant women should receive a dose of Tdap during each pregnancy between 27 and 36 weeks gestation.***

### Rationale Behind Maternal Vaccination Recommendation:

- In 2012, 48,277 cases of pertussis were reported in the United States; 2,269 of those cases were in infants younger than 3 months of age - 15 of those infants died.
- Studies have shown that when the source of pertussis was identified, mothers were responsible for 30-40% of infant infections. Fathers were the source in 15% of cases where a source was identified.

### Protecting Infants from Pertussis:

3 key strategies are recommended to protect infants from pertussis:

1. Administering Tdap vaccine to women during every pregnancy
2. Encouraging all close contacts of infants to be up-to-date with their pertussis vaccine ("cocooning")
3. Vaccinating infants with DTaP according to the childhood immunization schedule

### Transfer of Pertussis Antibodies to Infant through Maternal Tdap Vaccination:

- Transplacental transfer of maternal pertussis antibodies from mother to infant provides some protection against pertussis in early life, before infants are able to receive the primary DTaP series.
- Since the immune response to the vaccine peaks about 2 weeks after administration, Tdap vaccine is recommended **between 27 and 36 weeks gestation** in order to optimize antibody transfer and protection at birth.
- The level of pertussis antibodies decreases over time, so Tdap vaccine should be administered during **every pregnancy** so that each infant receives high levels of protective antibodies.
- Maternal antibody effectiveness in preventing infant pertussis is not yet known, but pertussis antibodies can protect against some disease and the associated severe outcomes.
- Experts believe that vaccinating your patients with Tdap during each pregnancy will prevent more infant hospitalizations and deaths from pertussis than "cocooning" alone.

### Vaccine Information Statements (VIS)

- A new VIS for Tdap, incorporating updated recommendations for pregnant women, is now available at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/tdap.html>.

### Resources

- Tdap for Pregnant Women: Information for Providers [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/pertussis/tdap-pregnancy-hcp.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/pertussis/tdap-pregnancy-hcp.htm)
- ECDOH Immunization Program 858-2373 [www.erie.gov/health/services/immunization.asp](http://www.erie.gov/health/services/immunization.asp)
- NYSDOH Immunization Program 847-4509 [www.nyhealth.gov/prevention/immunization](http://www.nyhealth.gov/prevention/immunization)